

Appl. No.: 10/051,428  
Amendment dated April 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

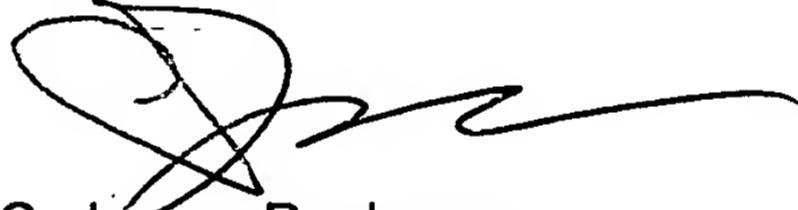
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled.

The Claims have been further amended to overcome Examiner's rejections. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form in response to the Examiner's indication that Claim 2 would thereby be allowable. Claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from Claim 2, and should thereby also be allowable as depending from allowable independent Claim 2.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



C. James Bushman  
Reg. No. 24,810

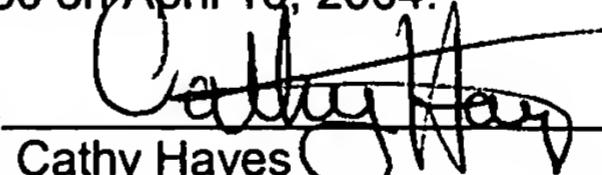
Date: April 16, 2004

BROWNING BUSHMAN  
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1800  
Houston, TX 77057  
Tel.: (713) 266-5593  
Fax: (713) 266-5169

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 16, 2004.

By:



Cathy Hayes